

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 308

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study concerning grazing use of certain land within and adjacent to Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, and to extend temporarily certain grazing privileges.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 1997

Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ENZI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study concerning grazing use of certain land within and adjacent to Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, and to extend temporarily certain grazing privileges.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) open space near Grand Teton National
6 Park continues to decline;

1 (2) as the population continues to grow in
2 Teton County, Wyoming, undeveloped land near the
3 Park becomes more scarce;

4 (3) the loss of open space around Teton Park
5 has negative impacts on wildlife migration routes in
6 the area and on visitors to the Park, and its reper-
7 cussions can be felt throughout the entire region;

8 (4) a few ranches make up Teton Valley's re-
9 maining open space, and the ranches depend on
10 grazing in Grand Teton National Park for summer
11 range to maintain operations;

12 (5) the Act that created Grand Teton National
13 Park allowed several permittees to continue livestock
14 grazing in the Park for the life of a designated heir
15 in the family;

16 (6) the last remaining heirs have died, and as
17 a result the open space around the Park will most
18 likely be subdivided and developed;

19 (7) in order to develop the best solution to pro-
20 tect open space immediately adjacent to Grand
21 Teton National Park, the Park Service should con-
22 duct a study of grazing in the area and its impact
23 on open space in the region; and

24 (8) the study should develop workable solutions
25 that are fiscally responsible and acceptable to the

1 National Park Service, the public, local government,
2 and landowners in the area.

3 **SEC. 2. STUDY OF GRAZING USE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
5 conduct a study concerning grazing use in Grand Teton
6 National Park, Wyoming, and associated use of certain
7 agricultural and ranch lands within and adjacent to the
8 park, including—

9 (1) base land having appurtenant grazing privi-
10 leges within Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming,
11 remaining after January 1, 1990, under the Act en-
12 titled “An Act to establish a new Grand Teton Na-
13 tional Park in the State of Wyoming, and for other
14 purposes”, approved September 14, 1950 (16 U.S.C.
15 406d–1 et seq.); and

16 (2) any ranch and agricultural land adjacent to
17 the park, the use and disposition of which may af-
18 fect accomplishment of the purposes of the Act.

19 (b) PURPOSE.—The study shall—

20 (1) determine the significance of the ranching
21 use and pastoral character (including open vistas,
22 wildlife habitat, and other public benefits) of the
23 land;

1 (2) determine the significance of that use and
 2 character to the purposes for which Grand Teton
 3 National Park was established;

4 (3) identify any need for preservation of, and
 5 practicable means of preserving, the land that is
 6 necessary to protect that use and character; and

7 (4) estimate the costs of implementing any rec-
 8 ommendations made for the preservation of the land.

9 (c) PARTICIPATION.—In conducting the study, the
 10 Secretary of the Interior shall seek participation from the
 11 Governor of the State of Wyoming, the Teton County
 12 Commissioners, the Secretary of Agriculture, affected
 13 landowners, and other interested members of the public.

14 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
 15 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior
 16 shall submit a report to Congress that contains the find-
 17 ings of the study under subsection (a) and makes rec-
 18 ommendations to Congress regarding action that may be
 19 taken with respect to the land described in subsection (a).

20 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF GRAZING PRIVILEGES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Sec-
 22 retary of the Interior shall reinstate and extend for the
 23 duration of the study described in section 2(a), the grazing
 24 privileges described in section 2(a)(1), under the same

1 terms and conditions as were in effect prior to the expira-
2 tion of the privileges.

3 (b) EFFECT OF CHANGE IN LAND USE.—If, during
4 the period of the study, any portion of the land described
5 in section 2(a)(1) is disposed of in a manner that would
6 result in the land's no longer being used for ranching or
7 other agricultural purposes, the Secretary of the Interior
8 shall cancel the extension described in subsection (a).

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